



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.               | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/646,776                    | 08/25/2003  | Satoshi Honda        | 0505-1236P          | 1097             |
| 2292                          | 7590        | 06/05/2006           |                     | EXAMINER         |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH |             |                      |                     | PARRIES, DRU M   |
| PO BOX 747                    |             |                      |                     |                  |
| FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                               |             |                      | 2836                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                            |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.            | Applicant(s)     |
|                              | 10/646,776                 | HONDA, SATOSHI   |
|                              | Examiner<br>Dru M. Parries | Art Unit<br>2836 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2006.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 11-17 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 8-10 and 18-20 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 8 and 9, filed April 13, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 11 under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Gale et al. (6,674,180).
2. Applicant's arguments, see page 8, filed April 13, 2006, with respect to claims 8 and 18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 rejections of claims 8 and 18 have been withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gale et al. (6,674,180). Gale teaches a vehicle power supply system for driving an electric motor (32) and other vehicle equipment (26, 28). He teaches an intermediate voltage application means for setting a line defined by an intermediate voltage (0V), between a drive voltage (42V) and a ground voltage (-42V), as a ground line for the other vehicle equipment (26). He also teaches power supply means for producing a voltage to be applied to said other vehicle equipment (26) (Col. 2, lines 19-23) based on the drive and intermediate voltage. He also teaches a node (N2) for providing the vehicle power supply.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gale et al. (6,674,180) and Welches et al. (2003/0012038). Gale teaches a vehicle supply system as described above. Gale also teaches that the batteries (14 and 20) could be of varying voltages (i.e. 12V, 24V, 36V, etc.) (Col. 2, lines 8-11). Gale fails to teach the voltage being supplied to the other vehicle equipment being Pulse Width Modulated (PWM) or the use of an inverter. Welches teaches a DC-DC converter with an inverter to adjust the voltage applied to a load from a battery. He teaches the use of PWM to adjust the voltage being output to a load (Abstract and [0010]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method, used in Welches, in Gale's invention so that the voltage output to the other vehicle equipment is precise and for improved and efficient power generation.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 8-10 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No prior art of record teaches the limitations claimed in the above claims with motivation to combine them with the main reference.

*Conclusion*

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hwang (2002/0003525) teaches a power supply circuit for driving a load containing an oscillator, photo-coupler, FETs, diodes, capacitor and resistors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dru M. Parries whose telephone number is (571) 272-8542. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on 571-272-2800 x 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DMP

5-23-2006



BRIAN SIRCUS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800